



# NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge**

**National Park Service  
Canaveral National Seashore**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: 1/04/11**

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## **Refuge Proposes New Entrance Fee at Black Point Wildlife Drive and Boat Ramps & Seashore Proposes Change in Current Rate Structure**

Beginning September 1, 2011, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge is proposing a new Entrance Fee for Black Point Wildlife Drive and for Boat Launching at three improved Boat Ramps within the Refuge (Bairs Cove, Beacon 42, and Bio Lab). Visitors will have the option to purchase a \$5.00 Daily Pass or a \$15 Annual Pass and the passes are interchangeable and may be used at either the wildlife drive or boat ramps. The passes are good for all occupants of the vehicle.

Canaveral National Seashore also operates a fee program and because of the close proximity, the Refuge and Seashore have agreed to work together to make the two programs as seamless as possible. Canaveral National Seashore proposes a modification to their Daily Entrance fee from a \$3.00 per person to \$5.00 per vehicle to match the Refuge's Daily fee. This would represent a savings to most visitors. Also, the Refuge and Seashore will honor each other's passes. If you have a valid Canaveral National Seashore pass you may enter a Refuge entrance fee area at no additional cost. In the same manner, if you have a valid Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Day pass you may enter the South or North District of Canaveral National Seashore at no additional cost; and/or apply the \$15 price of the Refuge Annual pass toward the cost of your Seashore Annual pass. In addition, in both fee areas, we honor the America the Beautiful Federal Recreational Lands Passes. A current Federal Duck stamp may be used in place of the Refuge Pass. Canaveral National Seashore will also honor the Federal Duck Stamps, by applying the \$15 price towards the cost of the Seashore annual pass with a \$20 upgrade to match the seashore Annual Pass.

Refuge Manager Layne Hamilton and Seashore Superintendent Myrna Palfrey recognize the public benefit of integrating the fee programs and have made

concessions to make the Refuge and Seashore passes reciprocal. If you have comments, questions or require more information, please visit the Refuge website <http://www.fws.gov/merrittisland/> or contact the refuge at 321 861-0667. Comments may be emailed to [dorn\\_whitmore@fws.gov](mailto:dorn_whitmore@fws.gov) or mailed to the Refuge:

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge  
PO Box 2683  
Titusville, FL 32781

Eighty percent (80%) of the revenue collected remains at the refuge or seashore to fund visitor improvements. Fees cover part of the cost of maintaining facilities, such as the wildlife drive, boat ramps, parking lots, trails, restrooms, observation towers, signs, and supporting public education programs, purchasing brochures, and funding construction of new visitor facilities. Both agencies are experiencing critical budget constraints. The proposed fee will help maintain improve or expand visitor facilities in order to maintain the highest levels of service for our public. We encourage you to make comments on the proposed fee changes and hope to see you at the public meeting.

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